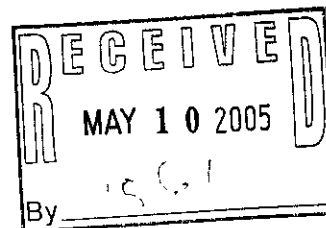




Administrative Offices  
2724 Harts Run Road Allison Park, PA 15101-1437  
Phone: (412) 487-7404 Fax: (412) 487-1259  
www.laurelsb.com

May 2, 2005



Mr. Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
550 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20429

RE: RIN No. 3064-AC89

Dear Mr. Feldman:

As the Chief Executive Officer of a \$305 million dollar community bank that employees nearly seventy (70) people, we wish to advise that we fully support the proposal to amend the definition of a small institution, for CRA purposes, to be a bank under \$1 billion in assets.

Laurel Savings Bank, like all community banks, is dedicated to the communities that we serve. It is simply the way we do business. If we did not serve the financial needs of our community we would simply cease to exist. Moreover, the current \$250 million asset size is unrealistic in today's financial landscape. The \$250 million threshold has been in place for many years and is in need of an adjustment.

We, like most community banks, are struggling with regulatory compliance issues. Increasing the small bank asset threshold to \$1 billion can be easily changed without weakening the intent of the Community Reinvestment Act. Such a change, however, would provide significant regulatory relief to smaller institutions.

It is ludicrous that Laurel Savings Bank should be examined under CRA using the same criteria used for banks hundreds or even thousands of times larger than us.

We strongly urge you to amend the definition of a small bank for CRA purposes to be an institution \$1 billion or less in assets regardless of whether the bank is part of a holding company.

Thank you for considering our views.

Very truly yours,

  
Edwin R. Maus  
President and Chief Executive Officer

ERM/smc